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THE SITUATION
IN SOUTH VIETNAM

Space in the letters column is insufficient to cover all basic present and future aspects of the tyranny in the so-called Republic of South Vietnam. Yet this is what has to be done if more than a superficial answer is given to

your question "Who will stop the Commies now?" Your editorial admits that nine years of American effort are now down the drain and that we backed the wrong man from the beginning. You also hope that the CIA makes a better selection next time.

If the American-backed junta is correct in equating Buddhism with communism, nobody will stop the Communists because between 70 and 80% of the populace is Buddhist. On the other hand, if the religion is not the same as communism it is up to the people of South Vietnam to select their new government without interference of the CIA. Then the revitalized country (with our help) will unite and overcome the Reds.

The United States must go beyond the slap on the wrist administered to the Diem gang who in turn have spit in our face. Otherwise the Viet Cong (Communists) need not lift a finger to triumph. An Asian Holy War can easily break out and the leadership of what is left of the free world will pass from our hands. Indeed, if we continue to disregard our political ideals, we shall lose our own freedom.

W. V. COOKE

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